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## HB 125, HD 1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Ecology, Environment and Recreation  
Public Hearing, 26 February 1979

By  
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Environmental Center

HB 125, HD 1 would make an appropriation in support of a study of the feasibility of recycling "gray water" by the Department of Health in cooperation with the University. Because the study might be conducted by the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) of the University, we have not involved the staff of the Center in the authorship of the statement on the bill, but have consulted L. S. Lau, Director of WRRC in its preparation.

The term "gray water" refers to those household waste waters that present relatively low health hazards, water derived from kitchen sinks, lavatories, showers, and bathtubs. The gray water constitutes a much larger fraction of household water wastes than the water from toilets that presents a high health hazard. There is a possibility that gray water could be recycled, at least after some simple treatment, and at least for uses as lawn and garden irrigation, without undue health hazard, and that necessary separate handling, storage, and treatment of gray water would be practicable.

The sum of \$25,000 proposed in HB 125, HD 1 for the study of the feasibility of recycling gray water would probably not be sufficient to permit the study to reach definitive conclusions except that such studies have been conducted elsewhere. The primary rationale for undertaking a study here would be to extend the results of previous studies and make them applicable to the Hawaiian setting.

- . The proposed study seems justified in terms of this rationale.